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Comment: I am a Fairbanks physician. I am writing in opposition to options B and C in the Draft IAP/EIS.

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1) Teshekpuk lake is a critical wildlife habitat for many migratory waterfowl, including the endangered Spectacled Eider. Under the "preferred alternative" impacts to eiders "would be about twice as great for oil and gas exploration activities, and four times as great for oil development activities, as compared to the No Action Alternative." Given that eiders are endangered, it must be acknowledged that a decision to explore an area of heavy eider nesting means gambling with possible extinction of this species.

002
Global
Warming

2) Climate Change:

Absent from the draft EIS is any discussion of the concurrent impact of climate change on this ecosystem. The animals and Alaskan Native populations affected by by oil exploration are having to adapt concurrently to rapid warming of the climate. I fear that these two stresses combined may prove overwhelming to many species that depend on this critical and unique environment. The arctic climate has warmed 7 degrees F over the past 30 years, and the duration of the winter season has shortened. In turn, these changes have lead to innumerable stresses on local wildlife and Native Alaskans. Polar Bears, for example, are unable to reach the pack ice, and face starvation. Alaskan Natives have had to shift the season of Bowhead hunting, and this may coincide with the season of increased boat traffic in the area. Thus, the EIS is incomplete without an assessment of the concurrent impacts of climate change.

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004
Subsistence

005
Global
Warming

Attached: None